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Dr. Van Dellen

Hospital Costs Promote Home-Care Program

There are too many peo- do not require this expen- sive type of pensive type of care. To over- come the prob- lem, the time will come when more and more ill per- sons will be cared for in the home. Some institu- tions and or- ganizations have started the ball rolling by extending hospital care into the home.

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IN THE FUTURE, when Mrs. X. gets sick, a physician will determine whether she can be treated at home or in the hospital. If the decision is home care, he will pre- scribe the medication and then his team will take over.

This means a visiting nurse calls on Mrs. X at least twice a day to admin- ister the medicines and give routine nursing care.

A crew of cleaning wom- en enter the home daily to do their job.

A truck stops three times a day to deliver the food re- quired by the patient and family. These meals are prepared in advance and served in much the same way as for air line passen- gers.

This is only a suggestion.

Home care as it exists to- day varies from the simple provision of a visiting nurse service to a complex of co- ordinated services concerned with all the medical and so- cial needs of the patient.

The majority utilize a home base of operations to implement and coordinate the program.

Some, for example, are run through public health agencies; others are hospital based or part of the Home- maker service.

THERE IS much to say about the hospital based con- cept because it is able to offer a more integrated and coordinated service. It also provides an excellent liaison between the patient and the physician.

All the facilities of the hospital are available, in- cluding laboratory work and X-rays.

Some of the present pro- grams are limited to the in- digent, whereas others serve only the chronicall ill, those with specific diseases such as tuberculosis, or certain age groups such as children and the elderly.

HOME CARE IS ideal for the aged with a chronic ill- ness; these men and women appreciate being with their loved ones in familiar sur- roundings.